

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 04954 291028Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-06

IO-13 DLOS-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 SAJ-01 SAL-01 TRSE-00

FEA-01 /101 W

----- 045870

R 290854Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2534

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4954

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS REJECT FOREIGN MINISTER'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER
ROCKET TESTING IN BARENTS SEA

REFS: (A) OSLO 4739, (B) OSLO 4688, (C) OSLO 4535, (D) OSLO 4566,
(E) OSLO 2503

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND VOICED THE THIRD NORWEGIAN
EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER SOVIET ROCKET TESTS IN THE DISPUTED
BARENTS SEA BOUNDARY AREA, AND HE TOO WAS TURNED DOWN. THE
NORWEGIANS ARE NOW INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE SIG-
NIFICANCE OF THE HARDENING AND INFLEXIBILITY OF THE SOVIET
POSITION IN THE BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH MAY MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE
TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT THERE. THE TOUGHER SVOIET POSITION
AND A GON RECOGNITION OF THEIR OWN FRAGMENTED POLICY IN THIS FIELD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 04954 291028Z

FORM THE BACKDROP FOR A SERIES OF UPCOMING HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS

GON AND SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL BE HOLDING IN NEAR FUTURE
OVER NORTHERN AND OTHER ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND EXPRESSED TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR
Y.A. KIRICHENKO ON SEPT 13 NORWAY'S GROWING CONCERN
ABOUT SOVIET ROCKET TESTS IN THE BARENTS SEA FROM SEPTEMBER 16-30.
FRYDENLUND'S ACTION CAME THREE DAYS AFTER THE SOVIETS ANNOUNCED
THE TESTS AND WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE THIRD SET OF SOVIET
ROCKET TESTS IN THE PAST YEAR IN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY
AREA NOW UNDER NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER'S APPROACH RAISED THE LEVEL OF NORWEGIAN PROTEST,
WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN CONDUCTED THROUGH OFFICIALS OF NORWAY'S
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW.

2. THE NORWEGIAN CONCERN WAS REGISTERED ON GROUNDS THAT THE
TESTS WERE A SERIOUS HINDERANCE TO NORWEGIAN FISHING AND TRAFFIC
IN THE AREA AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THAT THE TESTS ARE BEING
CONDUCTED IN THE DISPUTED OCEAN BOUNDARY AREA.

3. THE NORWEGIAN PRESS HAS APPLAUDED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTER'S APPROACH TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. THE
SENSATIONAL OSLO DAILY "DAGBLADET" SOBERLY OBSERVED THAT THE
SOVIETS TESTS WERE A POLITICAL SIGNAL FROM THE USSR WHICH
WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR NORWAY TO MANEUVER IN THIS POLITICALLY
AND STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT AREA. CONSERVATIVE OSLO
JOURNAL "AFTENPOSTEN" CALLED THE SOVIET TESTS "ROCKET DIPLOMACY"
DESIGNED TO SIGNAL THAT LARGE AREAS OF THE BARENTS SEA ARE
FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES TO BE TREATED AS A SOVIET INLAND
SEA. IT SAID THE SOVIET DISREGARD OF NORWAY'S REQUEST FOR
RESTRAINT IN THE AREA REVEALS A WIDENING GAP BETWEEN SOVIET
ASSURANCES OF NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS AND THEIR MILITARY ACTS.

END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

4. SOVIETS HAVE MAINTAINED A CONSISTENT POSITION IN RESPONSE
TO NORWEGIAN DEMARCHES ON ROCKET TESTS IN THE BOUNDARY AREA.
THEY HAVE SIMPLY REJECTED OUR OF HAND NORWEGIAN APPROACHES,
STATING THAT AREA IS NOT IN DISPUTE AND IS SOVIET TERRITORY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 04954 291028Z

(OSLO 4739). MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL VIBE TOLD DCM
THIS IS SAME REPLY FRYDENLUND RECEIVED WHEN HE MADE
HIS APPROACH TO KIRICHENKO.

5. VIBE SAID NORWEGIANS HELD A SOBERING REVIEW OF STATUS OF
BOUNDARY TALKS SEPT 22 IN WHICH THEY CONCLUDED THAT SOVIETS HAVE
SUBSTANTIALLY STIFFENED THEIR POSITION ON BOUNDARY AND HAVE
APPARENTLY DECIDED SECTOR LINE WAS SO IMPORTANT THEY WOULD NOT

BUDGE FROM IT. NORWEGIANS ARE CONCERNED, VIBE SAID, THAT SOVIETS HAVE GOTTEN THEMSELVES INTO INFLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING POSITION NOW, AND THIS WILL MAKE DIFFICULT ANY AGREEMENT ON OFFSHORE BOUNDARY. HE SAID NO NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT COULD AFFORD TO BE SEEN GIVING AWAY TERRITORY IN THE NORTH TO THE SOVIETS.

6. BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT END OF LAST BOUNDARY TALKS TO ANOTHER ROUND OF BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS IN OSLO, AND NORWEGIANS WILL BE EXPECTED TO PROPOSE MEETING DATES. BUT VIBE CONFESSED HE DID NOT SEE WHAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD LEAD TO IF SOVIETS HELD THEIR RIGID POSITION. VIBE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOVIETS COULD BE EXERTING OLD TACTIC OF TAKING HARD LINE TO SET UP MORE FLEXIBLE STAND WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO VISITS OSLO (OSLO 4903). BUT HE SAID MFA OFFICIALS ARE AT THIS STAGE PESSIMISTIC THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED.

7. WHEN DCM ASKED WHAT THIS MEANT FOR LAW OF SEA MINISTER EVENSEN'S TALKS OCT 11 IN MOSCOW ON FISHERIES MATTERS, VIBE SAID EVENSEN'S EARLIER PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY "GREY ZONE" (OSLO 2503) FOR HANDLING ACTIVITIES IN THE DISPUTED AREA WHILE BOUNDARY TALKS CONTINUED WOULD MOST CERTAINLY BE UNACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS SINCE THEY WILL NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE AREA IS IN DISPUTE.

8. VIBE ADMITTED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE PROVISIONS OF NORWAY'S 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE DISPUTED AREA. HE SAID NORWEGIANS MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ENFORCE ZONE JURISDICTION THERE, AND REFERRED TO LAST ARTICLE OF DRAFT ECONOMIC ZONE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD GIVE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE LIMITED ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS (OSLO 4535). HE RECOGNIZED THAT FAILING TO ENFORCE LAW IN AREA MIGHT RAISE OUTCRY FROM NORWEGIAN PUBLIC, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE MIGHT BE TO DECLARE AND ENFORCE THE ECONOMIC ZONE PROVISIONS INITIALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 OSLO 04954 291028Z

IN AN AREA WELL AWAY AND SOUTH AND WEST OF THE DISPUTED BOUNDARY

9. COMMENT: NORWEGIAN CONCERN ABOUT SHAPE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH IS GROWING. THE TOUGHENED SOVIET POSITION ON THE BOUNDARY ISSUE AND THEIR HEAVY-HANDED APPROACH TO MISSILE TESTING IN THE DISPUTED AREA HAS CAST A SHADOW OVER EARLIER GON HOPES THAT NORTHERN AREA ISSUES COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH SEPARATE NEGOTIATION OF EACH SPECIFIC PROBLEM. AGAINST THIS MORE GLOOMY BACKDROP, THE GON IS PREPARING TO ENTER INTO THE EVENSEN AND GROMYKO DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO NORTHERN ISSUES. AT THE SAME TIME IT FINDS ITSELF IN NEED OF A CLEARER AND MORE COHERENT STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE HERE THAT THE GON IS EVOLVING SUCH A STRATEGY.

ANDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, MISSILE TESTS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OSLO04954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760368-0363
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976097/aaaaafyv.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OSLO 4739, 76 OSLO 4688, 76 OSLO 4535, 76 OSLO 4566, 76 OSLO 2503
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS REJECT FOREIGN MINITER'S EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER ROCKET TESTING IN BARENTS SEA
TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO, UR, (FRYDENLUND, KNUT), (KIRICHENKO, Y A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006